



February 4, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Clean Northwest Region BioFuels Demonstration Project being proposed by the Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative, Cool Clean Technologies, and Burnett Dairy Co-op. The project objective aligns with the mission of the Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative as it incorporates improving our future for both agriculture and energy in Wisconsin. The project looks to go beyond research and demonstrate the viability of growing Camelina (*Camelina sativa*) crops on marginal land and extracting the seed oil with liquid CO<sub>2</sub> as an environmentally improved method over traditional hexane extraction. It is important that the project is taking a scientific approach of determining the economic, social and environmental viability of the approach to insure that all sustainability aspects are considered.

Camelina is an annual that originated in Northern Europe is not considered an invasive species although it can be a weed in flax seed as it is difficult to sort in seed operations. Research has indicated that its seed oil is suitable for biofuels and that it is suitable for marginal soils. Additionally it has a high omega-3 content, which may make it eventually an attractive feed source for cattle or other livestock.

The five Northwestern counties in Wisconsin (Barron, Burnett, Douglas, Polk and Washburn) have approximately 167,000 acres of marginal land that is not currently in agriculture. Additionally, several hundred thousand acres of land in WI may be suitable though much of the Northern WI. If Camelina can be grown with little input on this land and the appropriate safeguards to prevent erosion it would provide another revenue stream for farmers in this area. Additionally, as this land is marginal this bioenergy crop does not compete for food production.

The proposed project is exemplary of the type of projects that my organization supports, as it combines technology, ecology and social science to answer questions about an alternative crop and fuel. I support this project as evidenced my involvement and anticipate utilizing my organization to help leverage successes to other areas in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy Runge".

Troy Runge  
WBI Director

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